

What is Orange Shirt Day?

Orange shirt day is a Canadian day to recognize the the horrific results and effects of the Canadian Indian Residential School System. Wearing an orange shirt is the symbol of saying every child matters- and honors those who were in residential schools.



Canada must recognize this day, as it is a fact that residential schools were unfortunately a part of our history. By acknowledging this fault instead of avoiding it, Canadians can learn ways to begin to reconcile with the Indigenous peoples.



- What does the shirt symbolize?-



When was it officially announced as its date?

2013 was the official date of the first orange shirt day, but in reality the movement began at 1973, when Phyllis Webstad entered residential school.

- Over the course of year of its existence around, 150,000 childrens were placed in residential school

- There were over 139 residential school identified by IRS agreement which was largely funded by the federal government.



What is a story behind orange shirt day?

In 1973 Phyllis Webstad grandmother gifted her a orange shirt, however that gift and everything she owned were taken away by the school she attended(St.joseph missionary.) So the orange shirt became symbol of solidarity among residential school survivors, represents soul crushing event native children had experienced.

- On September, 30th at South Dakota Rapid city, the orange shirt day also marks the grand opening of the site dedicated to the children's memory.

- This Event features all the name of native children who passed away while attended Rapid city boarding school 1893 to 1933.